

not be transferred, and, moreover, the objects would have to be drastically revised; for whereas the present objects are to promote the medical and allied sciences and to maintain the honour and interests of the profession, the first object of a trade union is the regulation of relations between workmen and masters. The legal view is that medical men are neither the one nor the other within the meaning of the Trade Union Acts."

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

The Physicians' Formulary*

The Physicians' Formulary is now in the hands of the majority of the English speaking profession in Canada, and it is hoped that the French translation will soon be available also. This Formulary originated in a resolution of the General Council of the Association instructing the Committee on Pharmacy to prepare a Formulary broadly representative of the needs of medical practice in Canada. The work was completed in 1945, and is dedicated to Professor Velyien H. Henderson, who had over many years given so freely of his fine talents in the service of Canadian Medicine. His interest in the Formulary particularly was unrelenting, and he lived to see the completion of the work, if not the actual publication.

This Formulary has been adopted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs as its official formulary. It is comprehensive but exceedingly compact and of convenient size. The practising physician will find it indispensable.

A Matter of Terminology

It is rather curious that the diseases of old age and their care should only recently have acquired the status of a subject in itself. Whether this is due to greater solicitude born of social conscience, or to the fact that the old age group is making itself heard by mere weight of numbers, or to both, is not clear. It is certain however, that the care of the aged is now accepted as a necessary division of labour with its own distinct problems.

The terminology of the subject has been recently discussed in the British Journals.† One correspondent points out that "gerontology" is sometimes confused with "geriatrics". It is all a matter of Greek derivations. *Geron* is an old man and gerontology is the

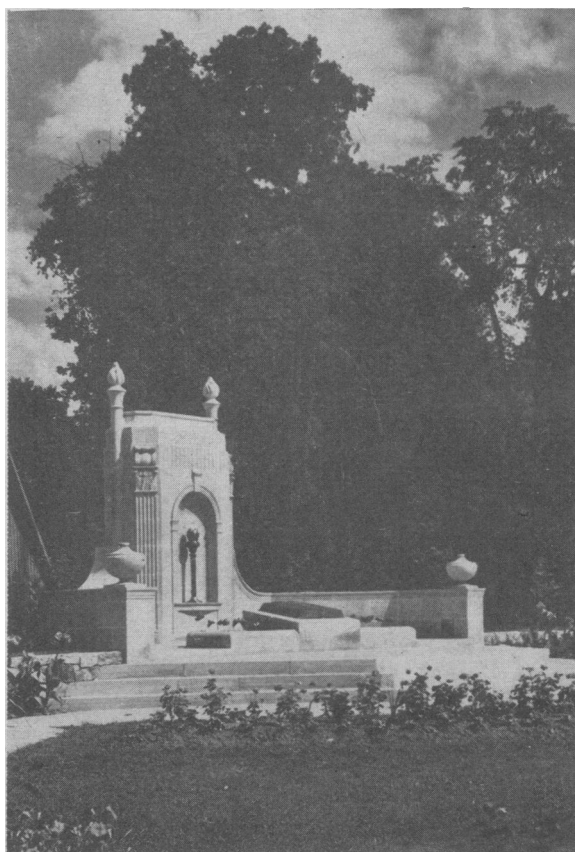
study of the aging process and its results. Geriatrics is derived from *geras* old age, and *iatros*, one who heals.

Another correspondent states however, that there is no Greek word "geria", and so geriatrics should more properly be gerontiatrics. Further, the women's rights have not been considered. Why should old people be taken to refer only to old men, especially as old women predominate? However, the Greek word for old women (*graus*) would produce the curiosity "griatrics".

Neither of these new coinings need be regarded as serious competitors with the present terms. Let us only hope that "gerontology" will not suffer the ill usage meted out to "pathology" or else we shall find students (and others!) casually remarking that some nonagenarian "has no gerontology".

The John McCrae Memorial

A memorial garden and shrine to Colonel John McCrae was dedicated in Guelph, Ont., on August 5 last. The beauty and simplicity of the shrine is well shown in the accompanying



photograph. Immediately in front of the symbolic torch in its marble niche there is seen a large bronze book resting on a stone slab. The poem "In Flanders Fields" is inscribed across its open pages.

* The Physicians' Formulary; The University of Toronto Press, 1946. To non-members of the Association \$1.00 in paper binding; \$1.50 in fabricoid.

† The Lancet, August 10, 1946, September 28, and October 5, 1946.